



King County

Records, Elections and Licensing Services Division

500 Fourth Avenue, room 553

Seattle, Washington 98104

Request for Information (RFI) for Disabled accessible Voting Equipment

July 29, 2005

Purpose of This Request for Information

King County's Records, Elections and Licensing Services Division (REALS) is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) as part of its research to gather information to assist with deciding on a Course of Action for selecting, purchasing and implementing Disabled Accessible Voting Equipment.

King County contracted with a private firm to develop and evaluate courses of action through a summit with key election staff and stakeholders for implementing a "Help America Vote Act" (HAVA) mandated accessible voting system by the required state and federal deadlines. The resulting evaluation was that King County has several options that will change the way ballots are tabulated in our jurisdiction. The possible courses of action that were determined are:

- Replace King County's current tabulation system in its entirety with Direct Recording Electronic disabled accessible (DRE) machines at the polls.
- Retain King County's current precinct based optical scan system and add a minimum number of DRE machines at the polls for accessibility compliance.

In addition, replacement of the current optical scan central count voting system for absentee ballot tabulation in King County with a new high-speed, optical scan, central count absentee voting system is also under consideration.

King County, therefore is seeking specific and current information regarding available products and suitable vendors to partner with to meet these needs.

King County Background

King County is the 11th largest county in the nation with a population of 1.7 million people according to the National Association of Counties (NACO). Currently, King County Elections accommodates 1.1 million registered voters, of which approximately 1,300 have requested Chinese language ballots. Approximately 70% of those voters voted via absentee ballot during the November 2004 Presidential Election. The remaining voters cast their ballot at 540 polling locations in the region. Recently the number of polling locations has been reduced to 532 and the number is anticipated to continue to drop.

In July of 2004, King County implemented Diebold's DIMS election management voter registration software system, replacing a legacy mainframe system in order to better manage voter records as well as meet HAVA regulations.

Currently, the county tabulates ballots using Diebold's Global Election Management system and Accuvote precinct based optical scan and central count configured voting system. During an election each polling location has an Accuvote machine to tabulate results as voters turn in their ballots. At the close of Election Day, poll workers deliver the Accuvote machines to 17 different depots within the county and the election results are then transmitted via modem to a central location where they are combined with absentee results. Absentee ballots are tabulated with 40 Accuvote machines configured as a central count system at our warehouse.

Information Requested from Vendors

Section 1 - Vendor Information and Profile

1. Identify company contact information including:
 - Company name
 - Mailing address
 - Name of primary contact
 - Telephone number for primary contact
 - E-mail address for primary contact
2. Describe your company including:
 - Typical products and services offered.
 - Number of years providing election equipment, systems and services.
 - Percentage of annual income derived from election equipment, systems and services.
 - Specific to your company please provide the following:
 - What are the number of current jurisdictions using election equipment, systems and services
 - Number of jurisdictions in Washington State using the company's election equipment, systems and services
 - Number of jurisdictions using the company's direct recording electronic voting equipment across the nation
 - Number of jurisdictions using the company's direct recording electronic voting equipment in Washington
 - Number of jurisdictions using the company's direct recording electronic voting equipment that is equipped with an audio component for disabled accessibility across the nation
 - Number of jurisdictions using the company's direct recording electronic voting equipment with an audio component for disabled accessibility in Washington State
 - Number of jurisdictions with more than 1 million registered voters using the company's election equipment, systems and services
 - Number of jurisdictions with more than 1 million registered voters using the company's direct recording electronic disabled accessible voting equipment
 - Provide other pertinent information about your company.

Section 2 – System Certifications

1. Provide information on the most recent version of direct recording electronic disabled accessible voting equipment and system with a machine readable voter verifiable paper audit trail certified for use in Washington State that meets all current Washington State Law and Administrative Code including:
 - Date the equipment and system was certified by the state of Washington
 - A list of NASED numbers for hardware, software, firmware and all components
 - A list of jurisdiction outside of Washington that the equipment and system is certified and in use in for election day voting
 - Description of the use and operation of the machine readable voter verified paper audit trail and a list of jurisdictions that have used the feature in an election
 - List and describe any planned or pending modifications that will require certification for the most recently certified equipment or system version with anticipated dates of completion.

2. Provide the following information on the most recent certified version of central count optical scan tabulating equipment and system certified for use in Washington State that meets all current Washington State Law and Administrative Code to be used in conjunction with # 1 above including:
 - Date the equipment and system was certified by the state of Washington
 - A list of NASED numbers for hardware, software, firmware and all components
 - A list of jurisdiction outside of Washington that the equipment and system is certified and in use in
 - List and describe any planned or pending modifications that will require certification for the most recently certified equipment or system version with anticipated dates of completion.
3. Provide information on the most recent certified version of precinct based optical scan tabulating equipment and system certified for use in Washington State that meets all current Washington State Law and Administrative Code to be used in conjunction with # 1 above including:
 - Date the equipment and system was certified by the state of Washington
 - A list of NASED numbers for hardware, software, firmware and all components
 - A list of jurisdiction outside of Washington that the equipment and system is certified and in use in
 - List and describe any planned or pending modifications that will require certification for the most recently certified equipment or system version with anticipated dates of completion.
4. If no Washington State certified direct record electronic disabled accessible voting equipment and system that meets all current Washington State Election Law and Administrative Code please provide information on any system that is anticipated to be certified in the next 6 months including:
 - Anticipated date the equipment and system will be certified
 - A list of NASED numbers for hardware, software, firmware and all components
 - A list of jurisdiction outside of Washington that the equipment and system is certified and in use in
 - Description of the use and operation of the machine readable voter verified paper audit trail and a list of jurisdictions that have used the feature in an election

Section 3 – Involvement of Disabled Community

1. Describe and outline the involvement and input of members of the disability community and disability advocacy groups with design and development of the interface used to provide a secret ballot for the blind and individuals with other disabilities.
2. Describe and outline any future plans for further development and refinements of these interface components.

Section 4 – Support and Training

1. Describe and outline a support model that would be recommended for implementing Disabled Accessible Voting Equipment in each of the following scenarios that would begin with delivery of the equipment through completion of the 2006 General Election:
 - Implementation of one direct recording electronic disabled accessible voting device in each polling place in King County, approximately 700 machines.
 - Implementation of direct recording electronic voting devices for all polling place voting in King County while providing disabled accessible voting equipment, approximately 3,000 machines.

2. Describe and outline a recommended training program for election staff who would be supporting and programming the system supporting the Disabled Accessible Voting Equipment and the staff that would be working directly with the equipment.
3. Describe and outline a recommended training program for poll workers.

Section 5 – Voter Outreach and Education

1. Describe and outline any previous voter outreach and education conducted in junction with implementing the proposed new voting systems. If outreach was done for a specific jurisdiction, please provide a name and contact information for the jurisdiction.
2. Describe and outline a recommended voter outreach and education program.

Section 6 – Timeframes

1. This project must be implemented on an accelerated schedule. Pursuant to provisions of the Help America Vote Act and state law, disabled accessible voting equipment must be implemented in the February 7, 2006 General Election, and each subsequent special election in March, April, and May and the fall 2006 primary and general elections. (Please note that the scope of each special election is not determined until the deadline for jurisdiction to file resolutions for special elections 45 days prior to the election.)
2. Describe and outline delivery options, capabilities, and recommendations for each of the following scenarios with an anticipated delivery schedule beginning December 5, 2005 for acceptance testing:
 - Implementation of one direct recording electronic disabled accessible voting device in each polling place in King County, approximately 700 machines.
 - Implementation of direct recording electronic voting devices for all polling place voting in King County while providing disabled accessible voting equipment approximately 3,000 machines.
 - Concurrent replacement of the current central count absentee ballot tabulation system with a high speed central count system compatible with the systems proposed above
3. If limitations exist for delivery capacity discuss and outline delivery options or roll out possibilities that would ensure full compliance with each of the scenarios outline above for the 2006 primary and general election.

Section 7 - Minority Language

1. List jurisdictions using direct recording electronic disabled accessible equipment to also produce a Chinese language ballot, and Chinese language audio ballots.
2. List any jurisdictions using direct recording electronic disabled accessible equipment to produce ballots in more than one minority language

Section 8 – Conclusion and Comments

Responses will be used by the county to determine the feasibility of various courses of action Please openly address any operational, and/or foreseeable technical issues which you believe would assist King County in selecting a course of action. Please take this opportunity to provide any additional relevant information regarding your company and products.

Submission

King County requests that vendor responses be provided no later than **Wednesday, August 10, 2005**. Responses should be emailed to Bill Huennekens at bill.huennekens@metrokc.gov .

Questions

King County requests that questions be directed to Bill Huennekens at bill.huennekens@metrokc.gov, or (206) 296-9932. Mr. Huennekens will either formulate a response or coordinate the development of a response. Based on the nature of the questions received, King County will either respond directly to the vendor asking the question or will email a response to all vendors who received a copy of the RFI.

Public Information

King County is a public entity subject to the disclosure requirements of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). Information submitted in response to this RFI may be considered public documents. Vendors are encouraged to be open with the information they provide in their support of this RFI while not providing documents that are proprietary.

King County Follow-up

After King County has reviewed vendor responses, the County may contact vendors to clarify the provided information. Upon determination of a course of action the county will initiate a procurement process in accordance with state law and county procurement practices and policies.